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REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 2-14, 16-25, 27-33, 35-41 and 43 are pending in the application. The pending claims stand rejected <u>provisionally</u> under 35 U.S.C. §101 (statutory-type double patenting) as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-39 of copending patent application no. 10/669,422 and claims 1-22 of copending patent application no. 10/670,670.

The Form 1449 has been objected to in that a reference did not include the month of publication where only the year of publication was supplied.

Double Patenting

The pending claims have been rejected provisionally as claiming the same invention as that of two copending applications. Applicants will take appropriate action on the provisional statutory-type double patenting rejection once there are issued claims in this application or one of the copending applications.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants have provided complete information, or as complete information as is available, and believe that they have fully complied with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(b)(5) [required content of information disclosure statement as to non-patent publications]. This rule requires the Applicants to supply: publisher, author (if any), title, relevant pages of the publication, date, and place of publication. Both month and year of publication are not explicitly required, and some publications are only assigned a year, and not also a month, in which they are published. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully urge that the three information disclosure statement that they have heretofore filed in this matter are complete and in full compliance with applicable rules

CONCLUSION

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance for claims 2-14, 16-25, 27-33, 35-41 and 43, as currently pending, is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions about the content of this paper or the status of the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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